A

WORD in SEASON:

OR,

ADVICE to a SOLDIER.

Fight the good Fight of Faith: Lay hold of Eternal Life!

1. ARE *you* to die? Muſt *you* leave this World? And carry Nothing of it away with you? Naked as you came out of your Mother's Womb, naked ſhall you return? And are you never to come back into this World? Have you no more Place under the Sun? When you leave theſe Houſes and Fields, this Fleſh and Blood, do you part with them forever? Are you *ſure* of this? Muſt *All* Men die? Can *none at all* eſcape Death? Do *Rich* Men likewiſe die, and leave their Riches for Others? Do *Princes* alſo fall and die like one of their People? Can *you* then eſcape it? You do not think ſo. You know Death is as ſure as if you felt it already: As if you was now gaſping for Life, ſweating and trembling in thoſe laſt Pangs, 'till the Soul ſtarted off from the quivering Lips, into the boundleſs Ocean of Eternity.

2. And are *you* to be judged? How is this to be? Why, the Son of GOD ſhall come in His Glory, and all His Holy Angels with Him; and then ſhall he ſit upon the Throne of His Glory. And before Him ſhall be gather'd all Nations, and

and He ſhall ſeparate them one from another, as a Shepherd divideth his Sheep from the Goats. Behold He cometh with Clouds! And every Eye ſhall ſee Him, which is and which was and which is to come, the Almighty! And I ſaw (wilt thou alſo ſay) a great white Throne, and Him that ſat thereon, from whoſe Face the Earth and the Heavens fled away, and there was found no Place for them. And I ſaw the Dead, ſmall and great, ſtand before GOD, and they were judged, every Man according to his Works. And ſhalt *Thou* alſo be judged according to *thy* Works? *All* thy Works, whether they be good or evil? Yea, and for every *idle Word* which thou ſhalt ſpeak, Thou ſhalt give an Account in the Day of Judgment. But *this* is not all. The LORD, the Judge ſearcheth *the Heart* and trieth the Reins. He underſtands *all thy Thoughts*; and for *all theſe* likewiſe He ſhall bring thee into Judgment. Suppoſeſt Thou, it is enough, To be *Outwardly* Good? What! Tho' thy *Inward* Parts are very Wickedneſs? And are they not? Is not thy Soul fallen ſhort of the Glory (the Glorious Image) of GOD? Look into thy Breaſt. Art Thou not a Fallen Spirit? Doſt Thou not know and feel, how very far Thou art gone from Original Righteouſneſs? How deſperately full Thou art of all Evil, and naked of all Good? Is there not in Thee an Earthly, Senſual, Deviliſh Mind? A Mind that is Enmity againſt GOD? 'Tis plain there is. For Thou doſt not love GOD. Thou doſt not delight in Him. He is not the Deſire of thy Eyes or the Joy of thy Heart. Thou loveſt the Creature more than the Creator. Thou art a Lover of Pleaſure more than a Lover of GOD. O how wilt Thou ſtand in the Judgment!

3. Are *you* then to go to Heaven or Hell? It muſt be either to one or the other. I pray GOD you may not go to Hell! For who can dwell with everlaſting

everlasting Burnings? Who can bear the Fierceness of that Flame, without even a Drop of Water to cool his Tongue? Yea, and that without End; for as the Worm dieth not, so the Fire is not quenched. No. Whoever is once cast into that Lake of Fire, shall be tormented Day and Night forever and ever. O Eternity! Eternity! Who can tell the Length of Eternity? I warn *Thee* now, before GOD, and the LORD JESUS CHRIST, that *Thou* come not into that Place of Torment!

4. But alas! Is not Hell now begun in thy Soul? Does thy *Conscience* never awake? Hast Thou no *Remorse* at any Time? No *Sense* of Guilt? No *Dread* of the Wrath of GOD? Why these (if Thou art not saved from them in this Life) are the Worm that never dieth. And what else is thy Carnal Mind? Thy Enmity against GOD? Thy foolish and hurtful Lusts, thy inordinate Affections? What are Pride, Envy, Malice, Revenge? Are they not Vipers gnawing thy Heart? May they not well be called, The Dogs of Hell? Canst Thou be out of Hell, while these are in thy Soul? While they are tearing it in Pieces, and there is none to help Thee? Indeed they are not fully let loose upon Thee. And while Thou seest the Light of the Sun, the Things of the World that surround Thee, or the Pleasures of the Sense, divert thy Thoughts from them. But when Thou canst eat and drink no more, when the Earth with the Works thereof is burnt up, when the Sun is fallen from Heaven, and Thou art shut up in utter Darkness, what a State wilt Thou be in then? Mayst Thou never try! Seek Thou a better Habitation, a House of GOD eternal in the Heavens.

5. There the Wicked cease from Troubling, there the Weary are at Rest. For GOD shall wipe away all Tears from their Eyes; and there

shall

ſhall be no more Death, neither Sorrow nor crying, neither ſhall there be any more Pain, but everlaſting Joy upon their Heads. But this Joy our Ears have not yet heard, neither has it entered into the Heart of Man to conceive. Yet a little of it the Children of GOD can conceive, from what they already enjoy. For the Kingdom of Heaven is within them. GOD has given them Eternal Life; the Life which is hid with CHRIST in GOD. They have Heaven upon Earth; Righteouſneſs and Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghoſt. Their Souls are renewed in the Image of GOD. They love GOD with all their Hearts. They are Happy in Him; and they love their Neighbour, (that is every Man) as themſelves, as their own Souls. Being juſtified by Faith, they have Peace with GOD, yea, a Peace which paſſeth all Underſtanding. And they rejoice evermore, knowing their Sins are blotted out; that they are accepted in the Beloved, and that they are going to an Inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

6. Will you reply to all this, "But I am a Soldier, and have therefore nothing to do with theſe Things?" Hold! Have Soldiers nothing to do with Death? How ſo? Do Soldiers never die? Can you fight Death away? No, my Friend; he will not regard all your big Words or Looks. Nor all the Weapons of your Warfare. You can neither conquer nor eſcape him. Your Profeſſion may excuſe you from many other Things. But there is no excuſing yourſelf from Death. Are you leſs ſure of This than other Men are? No. There is one Lot for all. Are you farther from it than they? Nay, rather nearer. You live in the very Jaws of Death. Why then a Soldier (if there be any Difference) has more to do with Death

Death than other Men. It is not far from every one of us. But [illegible] at the Door.

7. Or do you fancy a Soldier has nothing to do with Judgment? Will you say then (as poor Captain *Uratz* did, when he was ask'd a few Minutes before his Death, If he had made his Peace with God) "I hope God will deal with me like a Gentleman?" But God said unto him, "Thou Fool! I will deal with Thee, as with all Mankind. There is no Respect of Persons with Me. I reward every Man according to his Works." Thou also shalt receive of the Righteous Judge, according to the Things which Thou hast done in the Body. Death levels all: It mingles in one Dust the Gentleman, Soldier, Clown and Beggar. It makes all these Distinctions void. When Life ends so do they. Holy or Unholy is the one Question then. Lo! The Books are open'd, that all the Dead may be judg'd according to the Things that are written therein! O may thy Name be found written in the Book of Life!

8. For, Have Soldiers nothing to do with Hell? Why then is it so often in *thy* Mouth? Dost Thou think, God does not hear the Prayer? And how often hast Thou pray'd Him, *To damn thy Soul?* Is His Ear waxed heavy that it cannot hear? I fear thou wilt find it otherwise. Was not He a Soldier too (and a terrible one) to whom God said of old, "Hell from Beneath is moved for Thee, to meet Thee at thy coming?" And what marvel? For Sin is the High Road to Hell. And have Soldiers nothing to do with Sin? Alas! How many of you wallow therein, yea and glory in your Shame! How do you labour to work out your own Damnation! O poor Work, for poor Wages! The Wages of Sin is Death; the Wages of Cursing, of Swearing, of taking the Name of God in vain; of Sabbath breaking, Drunkenness, Revenge; of Fornication,

tion, Adultery, and all Uncleanneſs. Now, art Thou clear of theſe? Does not thy own Heart ſmite Thee? Art Thou not condemn'd already? What Voice is that which ſounds in thine Ears? Is it not the Voice of GOD? Shall I not viſit for theſe Things ſaith the LORD? Shall not my Soul be aveng'd on ſuch a Sinner as this? It is a fearful Thing to fall into the Hands of the Living GOD! Be very ſure that Thou art ſtronger than He, before Thou flieſt in His Face. Do not defy GOD, unleſs Thou canſt overcome Him. But canſt Thou indeed? O no. Do not try. Do not dare Him to do his worſt. Why ſhould He deſtroy both thy Body and Soul in Hell? Why ſhouldſt Thou be puniſh'd with everlaſting Deſtruction, from the Preſence of the LORD and from the Glory of his Power?

9. But if there were no other Hell, Thou haſt Hell within Thee. An awaken'd Conſcience is Hell. Pride, Envy, Wrath, Hatred, Malice, Revenge, what are theſe but Hell upon Earth? And how often art Thou tormented in theſe Flames? Flames of Luſt, Envy or Proud Wrath? Are not theſe to thy Soul, when blown up to the Height, as it were a Lake of Fire, burning with Brimſtone? Flee away before the Great Gulph is fixt: Eſcape, Eſcape for thy Life! If Thou haſt not Strength, cry to GOD, and Thou ſhalt receive Power from on High: And he whoſe Name is rightly called JESUS, ſhall ſave Thee from thy Sins.

10. And why ſhould He not? Has a Soldier nothing to do with Heaven? GOD forbid that you ſhould think ſo! Heaven was deſign'd for *you* alſo. GOD ſo loved *your* Soul, that He gave His only begotten Son, that you, believing in Him, might not periſh, but have everlaſting Life. Receive then the Kingdom, prepared for you from the Foundation of the World! This,

this,

this, is the Time to make it ſure; this ſhort, uncertain Day of Life. Have you then an Hour to ſpare? No; not a Moment. Ariſe, and call upon thy GOD. Call upon the Lamb who taketh away the Sins of the World, to take away thy Sins. Surely he hath born *thy* Griefs, and carried *thy* Sorrows! He was wounded for *thy* Tranſgreſſions, and bruiſed for *thy* Iniquities. He hath paid the Ranſom for *thy* Soul. Believe in Him, and Thou ſhalt be ſaved. Art Thou a Sinner? He came, not to call the Righteous, but Sinners to Repentance. Art Thou a loſt, undone Sinner? He came to ſeek and to ſave that which was loſt. May He that gave Himſelf for Thee, give Thee Ears to hear, and a Heart to underſtand his Love! So ſhalt Thou alſo ſay, "The Life I now live, I live by Faith in the Son of GOD." So ſhall the Love of GOD be ſhed abroad in *thy* Heart, and Thou ſhalt rejoice with Joy unſpeakable. Thou ſhalt have the Mind that was in CHRIST, and ſhalt ſo walk as He alſo walked: 'Till having fought the Good Fight, and finiſh'd thy Courſe, Thou receive the Crown that fadeth not away!

FINIS.